The Examiner has rejected claims 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawada (USP 6,078,317) in view of Fujimoto (USP 5,912,710). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Applicant teaches and claims a particular technique for displaying a DVD image on a display monitor. Each of the independent claims 23 and 24 specifically recite that the DVD image has a resolution of 720x480, and is subsequently displayed as an 800x480 or 852x480 image. That is, the image is scaled "up" in the horizontal dimension, and ***left unchanged*** in the vertical dimension. The resultant displayed image is "stretched", or "distorted" in the horizontal dimension, because the original aspect ratio is not maintained, but the degree of stretching or distortion is relatively minor, and the overall redimensioning process of the Applicant's invention requires substantially fewer resources than conventional DVD redimensioning processes, because a redimensioning in the vertical dimension is not required.

Sawada teaches a conventional redimensioning or rescaling process, and repeatedly teaches that the aspect ratio of the original image is maintained (Sawada, column 5, lines 38-43 and column 5, lines 51-55). That is, Sawada specifically teaches that if a rescaling occurs in the horizontal dimension, the same rescaling must occur in the vertical dimension. Sawada's FIG. 4 specifically includes the "vertical enlargement method", and Sawada's FIG. 5 specifically includes the required vertical interpolation at each of steps S4, S6, and S8, as detailed at column 6, lines 17-52. Sawada neither teaches nor suggests up-scaling an image in the horizontal dimension while leaving the vertical scale unchanged, as specifically taught and claimed by the Applicant.

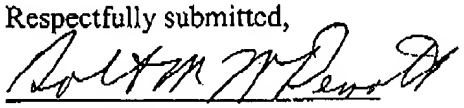
Fujimoto teaches a method for scaling graphic data to correspond to an aspect ratio of an associated image. Throughout the drawings and specification, Fujimoto specifically teaches the use of two separate scaling processes 106 and 107. Scaling process 107 is applied to the image to correspond to a display resolution, and scaling process 106 is applied to graphics data to ***match the aspect ratio of the scaled image data*** (Fujimoto's Fig. 1, and column 5, line 7 through column 7, line 56). Of particular note, Fujimoto specifically teaches that "the scaler 107 is used to scale down the size of the motion picture data (i.e. 720x480), for adjusting the data to fit on video window which is smaller than the motion picture data size (e.g. less than 720x480)" (Fujimoto, column 6,

lines 24-27). Absent a suggestion to the contrary, one of ordinary skill in the art would conclude that the scaling performed by the scaler 107 maintains the aspect ratio of the image ("motion picture data"), particularly considering that the expressed purpose of Fujimoto's invention is to scale graphics data to correspond to the aspect ratio of the image data, or to the aspect ratio of a monitor that is designed to display image data. Fujimoto specifically teaches a method of adjusting graphics data so as to maintain a proper aspect ratio on an image monitor, because absent such adjusting, the rendering of the graphics data will be "distorted", such that, for example, the rendering of a circle will appear as an ellipse (Fujimoto, column 2, lines 14-29).

Based on Fujimoto's repeated teachings of methods to match the aspect ratio of graphics data to the aspect ratio of image data, the Applicant respectfully asserts that Fujimoto implicitly ***teaches against distortions of the aspect ratio*** of the image data, as specifically taught and claimed by the Applicant. Fujimoto's teachings of modifications to the graphics aspect ratio are specifically designed to correspond to the aspect ratio of the image data.

Because neither Sawada nor Fujimoto, individually or collectively, teach or suggest expanding the scale of image data in the horizontal dimension while maintaining the scale in the vertical dimension, and because both Sawada and Fujimoto implicitly teach against distorting the aspect ratio of the image data, as specifically claimed in each of the Applicant's independent claims, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawada in view of Fujimoto.

Respectfully submitted,



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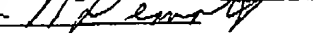

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

26. [The system of claim 25,] An image processing system comprising

a DVD player, and

a computer display monitor with at least a display resolution mode of 800x600 pixels;

wherein:

the DVD player is enabled to determine a pixel format of an image stored on [the] a DVD, and

the system is enabled to:

interrogate the monitor aout a display capability, and

process an image, stored with a 720x480 image resolution on the DVD, so as to have the monitor display the image with an image resolution of Xx480 in the display resolution of 800x600 pixels;

X being substantially equal to one of 800 and 852.